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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 002508

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE
NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/NEA; DRL FOR A/S CRANER
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FFP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: JUNE 17, 2005 (1500 HOURS LOCAL) --
TWO QASSAMS HIT SDEROT, NO INJURIES

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary. Palestinian militants fired two Qassam rockets at the Israeli town Sderot on June 16, but caused no injuries or significant damage. A Palestinian Preventive Security (PSO) agent died in Ramallah June 16 from an accidental discharge of his weapon. Two Palestinians were shot and injured in Aida camp, near Bethlehem June 16 during an IDF incursion. End Summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: A PSO agent died in Ramallah June 16 from an accidental discharge of his weapon, according to security sources.

-- Injuries: Three Palestinians in Marda village were shot and injured by rubber-coated bullets, and another injured by a flying tear gas canister in anti-barrier clashes with the IDF June 16, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Injuries: Two Palestinians were shot and injured by rubber-coated bullets during an IDF incursion in Aida camp, near Bethlehem, on June 16 according to Palestinians newspapers.

-- Arrests: The IDF entered Tal village near Nablus on June 16 and arrested Muhammad Asayda, a senior PIJ activist, according to Palestinian newspapers.

Gaza Strip

3. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Rockets: According to the IDF, Palestinian militants fired two Qassam rockets at the Israeli town of Sderot June 16. No injuries were reported.

-- Mortars: According to the IDF, Palestinian militants fired four mortar shells at IDF soldiers and Israeli settlers June 16-17. Of these, three were fired near Netzarim settlement and one was fired near Khan Younis. UNRWA reported two mortars fired from Bayt Lahia at 1500 hrs June 16. No injuries were reported from any of these incidents.

-- Shootings: According to the IDF, Palestinian militants shot at IDF soldiers west of Karni crossing at approximately 1430 June 16. No injuries were reported.

4. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS

-- According to UNRWA, at 0800 hrs June 17 the IDF announced that all crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip were closed indefinitely, due to a short-notice security alert. At 1100 hrs the IDF announced that Erez crossing was open for entry into Gaza, but was still closed for exit.

-- Route Four (Salah Ed-Din Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 4-6, but closed at Netzarim junction.

-- The Erez Crossing was open for entry into the Gaza Strip for internationals and Palestinians, but closed for exit, June 17.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed June 17.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for labores and aggregates used in construction June 17.

-- Karni Terminal was closed for the import and export of

materials June 17.

-- Rafah Terminal ws closed June 17.

-- Tel al-Sultan and Toufa checkpoints were closed June 17.

15. (SBU) POLITICL DEVELOPMENTS

-- Israeli and Palestinian media, as well as GOI officials, reported that early this week the GOI increased operating hours at Karni terminal. Prior to the June 17 closure, between 500-600 trucks were reportedly passing through the terminal daily, an increase over the previous traffic of 50-100 trucks per day. Officials emphasized that trucks originating in the West Bank were still waiting up to two weeks to enter the Gaza Strip.

-- Gaza,s Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said in a June 17 public statement that Hamas will continue to abide by the &period of calm8 as long as Israel does, and stressed that Hamas,s position in government and its views on Hamas-GOI talks will be clarified following the upcoming PLC elections.

-- Israeli media reported that the PA Housing Ministry plans to construct high-rise housing on Neve Dekalim settlement lands following Israeli withdrawal, in order to house refugees currently based in Khan Younis.

PEARCE